Invasive Species Project

Organism Common Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Invasive species are defined as species that are non-native to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic harm, environmental harm, or harm to human health. Invasive species can be plants, animals, or other organisms (e.g., microbes). Introductions of invasive species are primarily caused by human actions. While most invasive species were introduced to the United States, some are natives in one part of the country but serious pests in another part of the country. In addition there are problem plants that are native but invade managed habitats such as rangelands or agricultural fields. Invasive species threaten native plants, animals and ecosystems, as well as impacting agricultural ecosystems and other human activity. Control costs and environmental damages can add up to millions of dollars per year.

You will be creating a wanted poster for an invasive organism chosen in class. Today, you will research your organism and answer the following questions to help you in the creation of your poster. Be sure to cite at least 2 reputable sources.

1. Species common and Latin name?
2. Where did it originally come from?
3. When was it introduced?
4. How and why was it introduced?

5. Why is it a problem? What happens when it invades an environment? What other native specie’s ecological niche is it directly affecting? What other species may it be affecting indirectly? (Think in terms of food webs). Does it have any impact on humans? If so, what are they?

6. Where is it a problem? Has the species spread from where it was first discovered?

7. Methods of control: what is being done to stop the spread of the species?

8. What can one do to help?  “If you find this invasive species in your area you should…”

9. Citations (at least 2):

Rubric:

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| What is it? Species *Common* and *Latin* name | 3 |
| Where did it originally come from? | 2 |
| When was it introduced? | 3 |
| How and why was it introduced? | 2 |
| Why is it a problem? What happens when it invades an environment? What other native specie’s ecological niche is it directly affecting? What other species may it be affecting indirectly? (Think in terms of food webs). Does it have any impact on humans? If so, what? | 10 |
| Where is it a problem? Has the species spread from where it was first discovered? | 5 |
| Methods of control: what is being done to stop the spread of the species? | 5 |
| What can one do to help?  “If you find this invasive species in your area you should…” | 3 |
| At least 1 large picture or drawing (ideally 8.5x11) of the species WITH a written description (be creative, but accurate) in complete sentences.  Label the main parts of the organism and include it’s size and color(s). | 5 |
| Creativity and Neatness | 3 |
| Site at least 2 references that you used from the internet (on back of poster) | 4 |
| ON TIME | 5 |
| **TOTAL** | 50 |